

Charter Amendments 2021

Drafting Committee

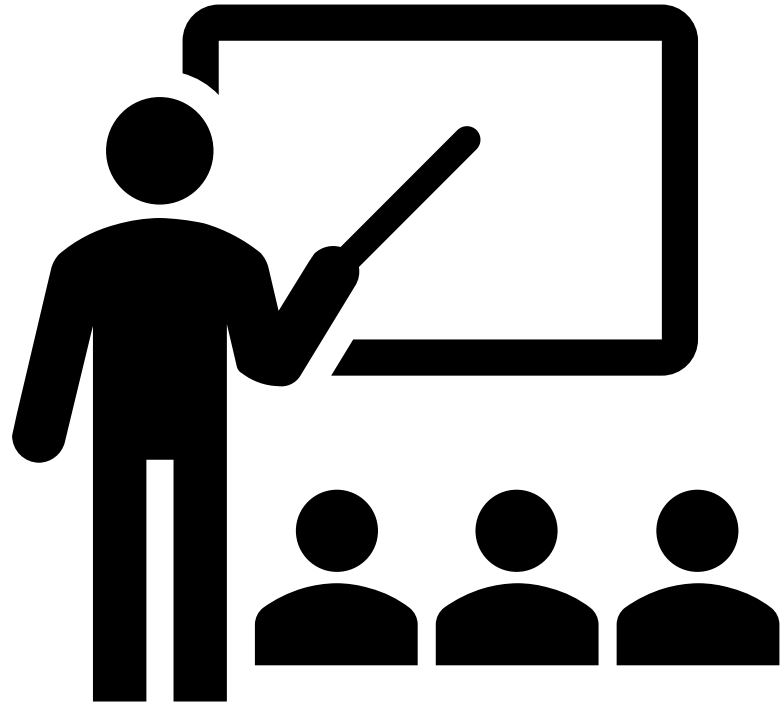
Chuck Green, Chair

Doug Lasher, Kim Harless, Chris Goodwin, Terri Niles, Deanna Rusch

June 30, 2021



What are we discussing?




- **Proposals from Sub-Committees:** proposed changes and reasoning
- **Ballot Language:** First reading of Drafting Committee draft ballot language for each amendment proposal
- **Vote:** Cover resolution for each, separate, formal vote for each of the seven (7) proposals, scheduled for July 7th to send to voters
- **After:** list of up to 3 members of “Pro” and “Con” statement committees transmitted with each resolution.

Clark County Home Rule Charter Amendments

1. Technical/clarifications
2. Nonpartisan Offices: Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Treasurer
3. Nonpartisan Offices: County Council
4. Charter Review Frequency/ Terms
5. Ethics Code and Ethics Review
6. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
7. Five-District County Council

Each moves to ballot by majority vote of Commission on a resolution for each





CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

proud past, promising future

RESOLUTION COVER SHEET

This form MUST accompany each original or certified copy of the resolution. Contact person or persons should have the authority to approve changes and to answer questions.

Name of District: Clark County

District Address: 1300 Esther Street, P.O. Box 5000, Vancouver, WA 98666-5000

Date of Election: November 2, 2021

Contact Person: Chuck Green Title: Co-Chair, Charter Review Commission

Contact Phone Number: 360-449-2132 Fax Number: _____

Contact Email: Chuck.Green@clark.wa.gov

2nd Contact Person: Kim D. Harless Title: Co-Chair, Charter Review Commission

2nd Contact Phone Number: _____

2nd Contact Email: Kim.Harless2@clark.wa.gov

Attorney for District: Christine M. Cook, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Attorney Phone Number: 564-397-4775

Attorney Email Address: Christine.Cook@clark.wa.gov

Type of election (levy, bond, lid lift, etc.): Charter Review Amendment

Please state the pass/fail requirements for this measure (i.e., simple majority, 60% super majority, etc.) as determined by your legal counsel, together with applicable statutory references: _____

Simple majority; Clark County Home Rule Charter

Clark County Elections • PO Box 8815 • Vancouver, WA 98666 • phone: (564)397-2345
fax: (564)397-2394 • email: elections@clark.wa.gov • clarkvotes.org

What is required to submit a ballot proposal?

Filing Resolutions with the Elections Office

Submittal Process for Resolutions

RCW 29A.04.330

Resolutions calling for an election by a jurisdiction shall be submitted on or before the resolution deadline established by state law. Resolutions calling for a special election in February or April must be submitted to the Elections Office at least 60 calendar days prior to the election date. Resolutions calling for an election in conjunction with the primary or general election must be submitted by the deadlines for those elections. See page 16 for resolution deadlines.

How to Submit a Resolution

To place a measure on the ballot, the following must be received by the deadline:

- A signed copy of the resolution
- A Resolution Cover Sheet containing important contact information required by the Elections Office (available at clarkvotes.org)
- Explanatory statement
- Names of committee members who will write statements "for" and "against" the measure

The resolution packet may be delivered in person, mailed, or emailed to the Elections Office by the deadline.

Physical location:
Clark County Elections
1408 Franklin Street
Vancouver

Mailing address:
Clark County Elections
PO Box 8815
Vancouver, WA 98666

Email address: elections@clark.wa.gov

Upon receipt of the resolution, cover sheet, explanatory statement and committee member names, the Elections Office will mail a notice of acknowledgment to the jurisdiction's contact person.

Ballot Titles for Local Measures

RCW 29A.36.071

RCW 29A.72.050

For measures submitted to the voters of a city or town, the official ballot title is prepared by the city or town attorney. For measures submitted to the voters of a unit of local government other than a city or town (e.g., a county, a fire district or a school district), the official ballot title is prepared by the bond counsel for the jurisdiction. The ballot title is then reviewed by the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

For jurisdictions where Clark County is the filing officer, Clark County Elections will assign the resolution a proposition number.

The format and content requirements for local measure ballot titles are very specific and must conform to state law. Each ballot title must contain all of the following elements:

- Identification of the enacting legislative body
- A statement of the subject matter (up to 10 words)
- A concise description of the measure (up to 75 words)
- A question

Resolutions submitted by jurisdictions that need a ballot title prepared by the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office will be forwarded to that office.



What is does it look like on the ballot?

<p>City of Vancouver Proposed Charter Amendment No. 1</p> <p>Concerns changes to the Commission on Mayor/Council salaries</p> <p>This amendment to section 2.18 would increase the number of Commission members from five to seven and remove outdated language. Salary increases for Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore and Councilmembers would be capped at the annual rate of the Consumer Price Index for the West Region (CPI-W). Salary increases higher than CPI-W would require a public vote.</p> <p>Should this amendment to the Charter be enacted?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>City of Vancouver Proposed Charter Amendment No. 4</p> <p>Concerns changing the claims process to conform to state law.</p> <p>This amendment to Section 2.05 would authorize the City Council to review and approve all bills, invoices or claims at its next regularly scheduled public meeting, if held within one month of issuance of payment. The claims would be audited, before payment, by an appointed auditing officer.</p> <p>Should this amendment to the Charter be enacted?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>City of Vancouver Proposed Charter Amendment No. 2</p> <p>Concerns clarification of Councilmember qualifications</p> <p>This amendment to Section 2.02 clarifies that Councilmembers who are either elected or appointed to a vacant Council seat must have two-year continuous city residency and also clarifies that restriction on simultaneously holding another public office means an "elected" public office.</p> <p>Should this amendment to the Charter be enacted?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>City of Vancouver Proposed Charter Amendment No. 5</p> <p>Concerns clarifying city contracting authority</p> <p>The wording in the charter is unclear as to whether the City may enter into contracts for longer than five years. While longer contracts are not common, contractors may require a longer term if a significant financial investment is involved. This amendment to Section 11.05 would clarify that the City may enter into contracts for longer than five years if approved by the City Council through ordinance.</p> <p>Should this amendment to the Charter be enacted?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
	<p>City of Vancouver Proposed Charter Amendment No. 3</p> <p>Concerns requiring adoption of specific procedures for filling Council vacancies</p> <p>This amendment to Section 2.08 of the City of Vancouver's charter would require that the City Council adopt specific rules and procedures for filling Council vacancies including provisions for public notice of such vacancies and that interviews of applicants for the position be done in public.</p> <p>Should this amendment to the Charter be enacted?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
	<p>City of Vancouver Proposed Charter Amendment No. 6</p> <p>Concerns allowing ordinance amendments by reference to subsection</p> <p>The charter requires that any ordinance or section of an ordinance that is being revised be published in its entirety. This amendment to Section 2.12 would allow the City to publish only the subsection of an ordinance that is being revised so long as the entire context of the amendment can be understood by reference to the subsection. This will make it easier for readers to more quickly identify which sections of the ordinance are being revised.</p> <p>Should this amendment to the Charter be enacted?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>



What is an explanatory statement?

Explanatory Statement for Local Measure

RCW 29A.32.241

Each ballot title for the voters' pamphlets must be accompanied by an explanatory statement. The explanatory statement is prepared by the Prosecuting Attorney for county measures. If the measure is not a county measure, the explanatory statement is prepared by the attorney for the jurisdiction submitting the measure. Explanatory statements submitted for the voters' pamphlet shall contain the name, address and phone number of the person submitting the statement.

The purpose of an explanatory statement is to state the effect of the proposed measure if it is approved by the voters. It must be impartial, written in clear and concise language, avoid the use of legal and technical terms whenever possible, and conform to the formatting requirements discussed below. If prepared by the jurisdiction, proof of approval by the jurisdiction's attorney must be submitted at the same time as the resolution.

If a jurisdiction doesn't provide proof of its attorney's approval in the form of a cover letter or an email, or if a jurisdiction doesn't retain legal counsel, the statement shall be submitted to the Prosecuting Attorney for review or preparation.

Length

Explanatory statements must be **100** words or less and must be in block paragraph format.

Format

Italics may be used to emphasize specific words or statements. Any other formats such as bold font, underlined font or all caps will be changed to italics. Lists or bullets are not allowed. Lists or bullets will be converted to a block paragraph with a semicolon to separate each item.

City of Camas

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

If approved by voters, passage of Proposition No. 2 would authorize the City of Camas to levy excess property taxes to pay general obligation bonds not to exceed \$78,000,000, maturing within 21 years of date of issue, for the purpose of financing recreation improvements, including a community center with recreation pool, competitive pool, and sport fields. The levy rate is estimated to be \$1.04 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Exemptions may apply for homeowners who are 61 years or older, the disabled, and those who meet income requirements set by state law. For more information, contact the Clark County Assessor.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Current Law: Salary Review Commission has five members who are charged with setting the salaries for the Mayor and Councilmembers. There are no restrictions regarding the amount of salary increase the Commission can authorize.

Result of passage: This amendment would increase Commission members from five to seven and remove outdated language. Salary increases for Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Councilmembers would be capped at the annual rate of the Consumer Price Index for the West Region (CPI-W). Salary increases higher than CPI-W would require a public vote. Commission could also decrease salaries or make no salary change.

City of Vancouver

Proposition No. 1

Proposed Charter Amendment No. 1

Concerns changes to the Commission on Mayor/Council salaries

This amendment to section 2.18 would increase the number of Commission members from five to seven and remove outdated language. Salary increases for Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore and Councilmembers would be capped at the annual rate of the Consumer Price Index for the West Region (CPI-W). Salary increases higher than CPI-W would require a public vote.

Should this amendment to the Charter be enacted?

☐ Yes ☐ No



What are statements for and against?

Establishing Committees “For” and “Against” a Local Measure RCW 29A.32.280

For each measure from a jurisdiction that is to be placed on the ballot, the legislative authority of that jurisdiction shall formally appoint committees “for” and “against” the measure. This must be done by the statutory deadline.

The jurisdiction shall appoint people known to favor the measure to serve on the “for” committee and shall appoint people known to oppose the measure to serve on the “against” committee. Committee members must be residents of the district they are writing statements “for” or “against.”

If such people are not immediately known, the jurisdiction is encouraged to formally notify the public that members of the “for” and “against” committees are being sought.

Each committee shall not have more than three members; however, a committee may seek the advice of other people.

Once the “for” and “against” committees for the measure are appointed, the voters’ pamphlet coordinator for the Elections Office will email the members of the committees with deadlines, a link to this guide, the full text of the resolution, explanatory statements and final ballot titles.

The committees are solely responsible for submitting their statements to the Elections Office by email at elections@clark.wa.gov in accordance with the specified timeline for each election. See page 16.

STATEMENT FOR

Amendment number 2 adds specific wording to the charter to clarify its intent in two key areas:

The first proposed change clarifies that applicants for a vacant City Council seat meet the same residency requirements as candidates who stand for election. Without this amendment, it would be possible for a short-term resident to be appointed to the council but be unable qualify as a candidate in the next election because of the two-year residency requirement. A potential appointee to an open council seat should face the same residency requirement as a candidate filing for an elected position.

The second proposed change is needed to eliminate uncertainty regarding the term “public office” by simply adding the word “elected.” It will promote good government by clarifying the prohibition against holding multiple elective public offices simultaneously.

This amendment received the unanimous support of the Charter Review Commission and approval by City Council for consideration by voters. It deserves your “Yes” vote.

Submitted by:

David Olson, Chair
dfo986@gmail.com

Frank L’Amie
flamie@comcast.net

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

Suggesting that Camas is not already alive and thriving is silly. To propose that our only path to inclusivity, social fulfillment, environmental and fiscal responsibility is a 21 year, \$78 million swimming pool bond is dishonest. Tourism, jobs, and investment are already flowing into Camas exactly the way it is. Borrowing this much money to fund such a narrow scope of services isn’t an effective use of our limited tax dollars, and is entirely irresponsible.

STATEMENT AGAINST

In 2017, estimated costs to replace the Crown Park outdoor city pool were \$2,220,000, yet the city closed that pool in 2018. In 2019, costs of a “replacement” have ballooned to \$72,000,000 for a 78,000 square foot facility with fitness center, multiple pools, and meeting rooms. Add \$6,000,000 for sports field improvements for an exorbitant \$78,000,000 bond. These construction costs will add approximately \$500 to annual property taxes for a \$480,000 Camas home.

Camas families and businesses will have to pay annual bond taxes if they never use the facility, *plus additional fees to actually use the facility*. Operation costs for the elaborate center are not included in the bond, nor fully disclosed at the city website. User fees will cover some costs, but a *new parks taxing district and additional taxes* are being considered to pay for operations.

Schools, Fire, EMS, and the Port also ask for tax hikes. Essential city services like roads and water are priority, not facilities already available in our community. Local schools rent gyms, rooms, and fields to community groups, and school playgrounds double as neighborhood parks. Nearby athletic clubs offer pools and workout facilities for reasonable fees, and it is unfair for the City to compete with or push out longtime businesses.

The proposed lakeside location is a notorious traffic bottleneck and safety concern. Alternate locations in less congested areas have been identified, yet ignored. This massive bond places the wants of the few above the actual needs of the many.

Submitted by:

Scott Hogg, Chair

Margaret Tweet

Phone: 360-818-4377

Email: notocamaspoolbond@gmail.com

Website: notocamaspoolbond.com



1. Minor corrections and technical clarifications

Proposal: Five years in, the Charter Review Commission proposes minor, technical changes to improve the clarity and readability in parts of the Clark County Home Rule Charter. These changes would correct clerical errors and some updates to contemporary language.

Ballot Measure: The Clark County Charter Review Commission adopted Resolution No. 2021-1 concerning amendments to Article 2, Section 2.4; Article 3, Sections 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6; Article 4, Section 4.1; Article 5, Sections 5.1 and 5.5; Article 6, Sections 6.1, 6.4 and 6.6; Article 7, Sections 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4; Article 8, Section 8.7; Article 9, Sections 9.1 and 9.7; removing the Entirety of Article 10; and inserting a new Article 11 of the Clark County Home Rule Charter. This amendment provides for minor corrections and technical clarifications to be submitted to the voters of Clark County.

Should this amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter be approved?



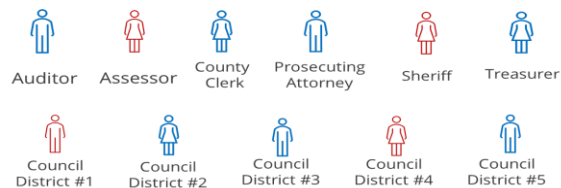
2. Nonpartisan Executive County Offices (Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Treasurer)

Proposal: Clark County executive elected positions are currently partisan (i.e. Republican, Democrat, "No party preference", etc.). Should Executive County elected offices (Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Treasurer) become nonpartisan?

Ballot measure: The Clark County Charter Review Commission adopted Resolution No. 2021-2 concerning an amendment to Section 6.2 of the Clark County Home Rule Charter. This amendment would make the county assessor, auditor, clerk, prosecuting attorney, sheriff and treasurer elected offices nonpartisan.

Should this amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter be approved?

Current: All Partisan



Proposed: Nonpartisan



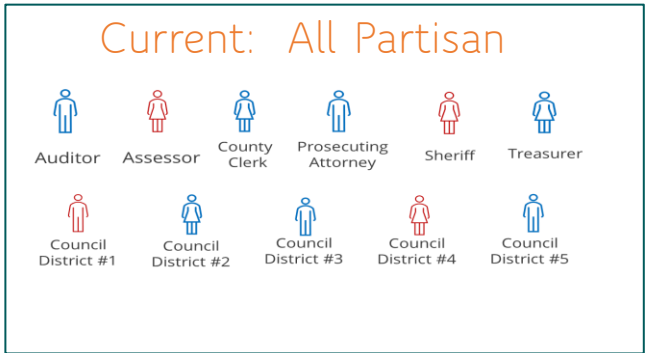
3. Nonpartisan Offices: County Council Offices

Proposal: Clark County Council positions are currently partisan (i.e. Republican, Democrat, “No party preference”, etc.). Should County Council offices become nonpartisan?

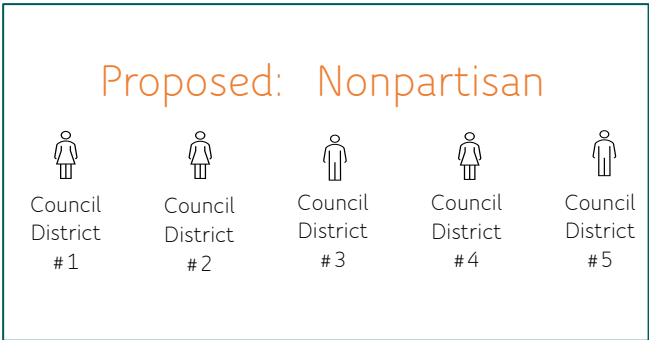
Ballot measure: The Clark County Charter Review Commission adopted Resolution No. 2021-3 concerning an amendment to Section 6.2 of the Clark County Home Rule Charter. This amendment would make the county councilor elected offices nonpartisan.

Should this amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter be approved?

Current: All Partisan



Proposed: Nonpartisan



4. Charter Review Frequency & Commissioner Terms

Proposal: change the frequency of Home Rule Charter reviews to every five (5) years, and the terms of the Charter Review Commission to two (2) years or upon completion of their work, whichever comes sooner.

Ballot Measure: The Clark County Charter Review Commission proposes an amendment to Section 9.1 of the Home Rule Charter which would change the frequency of the Charter Review process from every ten years to every five years and would change the terms of the Charter Review Commissioners to two years (instead of one year) or until their work is completed, whichever comes sooner.

Should this amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter be approved?



5. Adopt Ethics Code by Ordinance and an Autonomous Ethics Review Process

2021
Proposal

Proposal: create an Ethics Oversight process which requires County Council pass a Code of Ethics ordinance by July 31, 2022; establishes an autonomous Ethics Review Commission; and establishes an Ethics Oversight Office.

Ballot Measure: The Clark County Charter Review Commission proposes an amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter, establishing a requirement for the county council to adopt by ordinance a Code of Ethics, and establishing in the county manager's office an autonomous Ethics Review Commission, and a supporting Ethics Oversight and Compliance office.

Should this amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter be approved?



6. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Office & Commission

Proposal: create an Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the county manager's office, and a new commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Ballot Measure: The Clark County Charter Review Commission proposes an amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter, establishing a new Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion under the county manager's authority, and establishing a Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Should this amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter be approved?



7. Five-District County Council

Proposal: change the County Council to five representative districts. This amendment replaces the at-large council chair elected countywide with a councilor elected by and representing a fifth district. This includes a district boundary and precinct map revising the current four-district map to five districts. The council chair would be appointed annually by the five councilors.

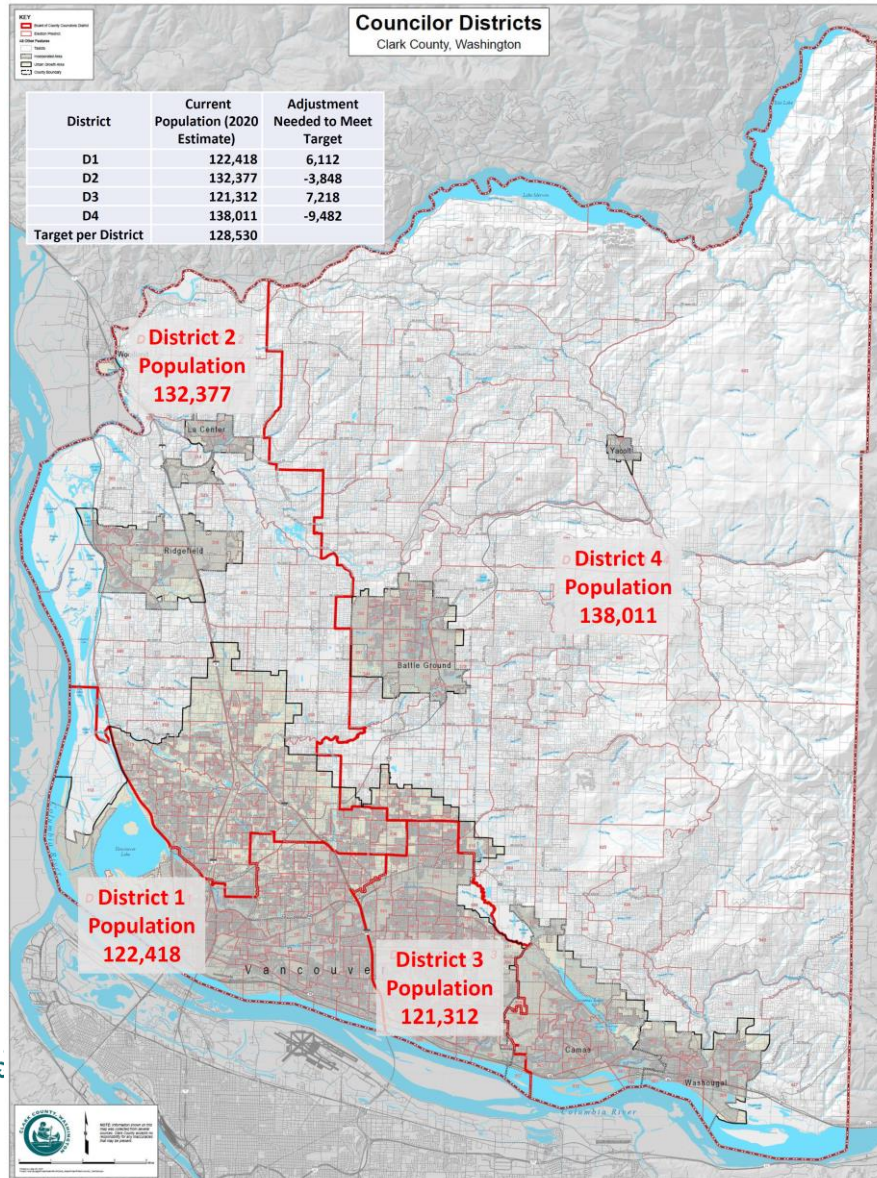
Ballot Measure: The Clark County Charter Review Commission proposes an amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter to change the composition of the County Council to five councilor districts, with each district represented by a councilor elected within each district. The amendment includes a five-district boundary and precinct map, prepared in accordance with state law with nearly equal population. The Council Chair would be appointed out of the five representatives, and the function of the Council Chair as well as the composition of Charter Review Commission would be modified according to this amendment.

Should this amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter be approved?



Current and Proposed District Maps

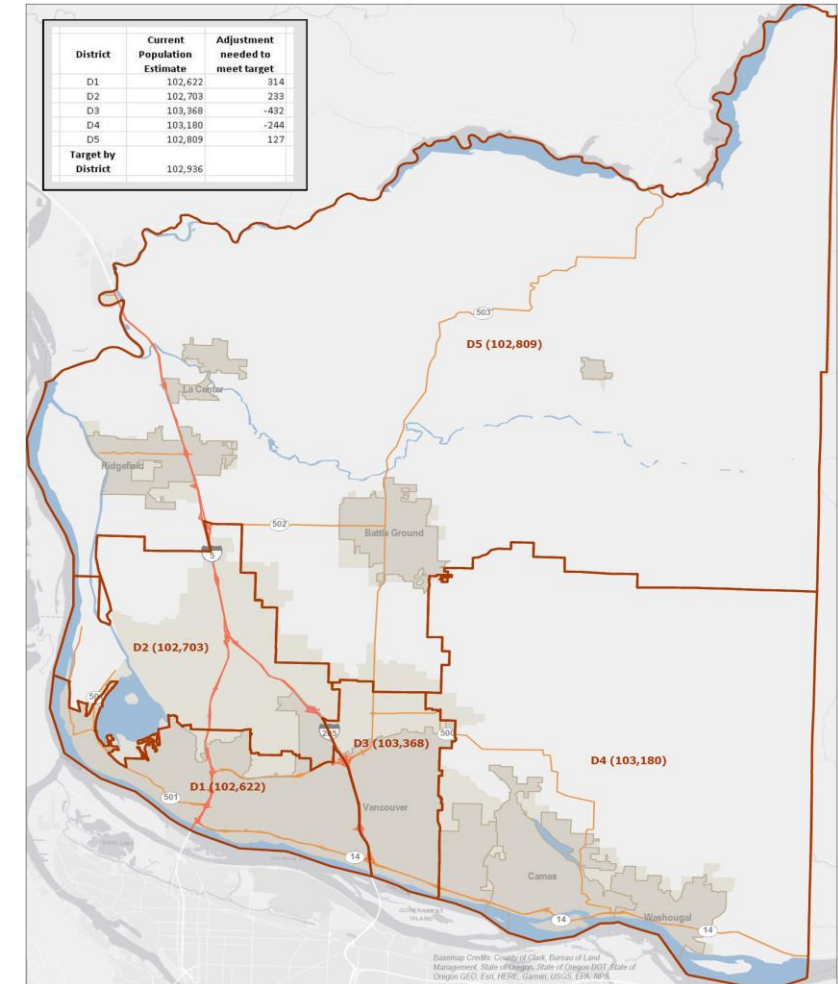
Current Four-District Map and Population



Current District	Transitional District	Next Election
Council Chair	District 5	2022
District 1	District 1	2022
District 2	District 2	2022
District 3	District 3	2024
District 4	District 4	2024

District	Current Population	Adjustment to meet Target
District 1	102,622	314
District 2	102,703	233
District 3	103,368	-432
District 4	103,180	-244
District 5	102,809	127
Target by District	102,936	

DRAFT: Five-District Transitional Map Proposal



Five District Map - May 27, 2021



NOTE: Information shown on this map was collected from several sources. Clark County accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies that may be present.

Current Charter District	Transitional District	Next Election
Council Chair	District 5	2022
District 1	District 1	2022
District 2	District 2	2022
District 3	District 3	2024
District 4	District 4	2024

Thank you!

Comments and questions

Clark County Charter Review Commission

<https://clark.wa.gov/county-manager/charter-review-commission-overview>

Clark County Public Service Center

1300 Franklin Street • PO Box 5000

Vancouver, WA 98666-5000

